

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4-5, 8-11 are pending in the application. Please further amend claims 4 and 9 as follows:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A process for producing at least one biochip, comprising:

putting a first solution containing at least one biopolymer, a second solution which gravity is smaller than the gravity of the first solution so as not to mix with the first solution, and a third an initial adjustment solution which does not mix with the first solution and has a larger specific gravity than that of the first solution into an inkjet device;

repeatedly injecting the initial adjustment solution until an injection amount of the inkjet device becomes stable and the initial adjustment solution is used up; and

ejecting the first solution from the inkjet device to a substrate to immobilize the biopolymer on a spot of a substrate of said biochip thereby producing said biochip.

5. (Previously Presented) The process for producing at least one biochip according to claim 4, wherein the ejecting step includes repeatedly replacing one of said biochip placed underneath an ejecting head of the inkjet device and ejected with the first solution with another of said biochip so as to produce a plurality of biochips.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The process for producing at least one biochip according to claim 4, wherein the putting step includes putting the first solution into the inkjet device prior to putting the second solution into the inkjet device.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a biochip by spotting a biopolymer on a plate by using an inkjet apparatus comprising a tank containing a solution, a supply passage connected to the tank, and means for ejecting the solution from a tip of the supply passage, the method comprising:

a first step of injecting into the tank and supply passage of the inkjet apparatus a biochip-producing solution comprising a first solution containing the biopolymer, a second solution which does not mix with the first solution and that has a smaller specific gravity than that of the first solution, and a third an initial adjustment solution which does not mix with the first solution and has a larger specific gravity than that of the first solution to fill at least the supply passage;

a second step of repeatedly ejecting the third initial adjustment solution from the inkjet apparatus until an injection amount of the tip becomes stable and the third initial adjustment solution is used up;

a third step of ejecting the first solution from the inkjet apparatus such that the biopolymer is spotted at a predetermined location on the plate positioned below an ejection opening of the inkjet; and

a fourth step of delivering the plate on which the biopolymer was spotted and transporting the next plate below the ejection opening,

wherein the biopolymer is spotted on a plurality of plates by repeating the third and fourth steps.

10. (Original) The process for producing at least one biochip according to claim 4,

wherein the first solution contains Tris-HCl as a buffer.

11. (Original) The process for producing at least one biochip according to claim 4,

wherein a the second solution is liquid paraffin or mineral oil.